



THE EXAMINATIONS

General Information:

- Your driver license examination will consist of a vision test, a knowledge test, and a road test.
- Driver license tests are given at all driver license stations except for the express service stations. They are administered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Due to the length of time to administer, road tests are cut off 30 minutes prior to the posted closing time.
- Road tests are not given in extreme weather (heavy rain/snow, dense fog, hail, high winds, icy roads, etc.)
- During winter months road tests are not given in the dark.
- No test may be repeated on the same day.
- Mandatory waiting periods are required when an applicant fails the written or road test for the original issuance of a Class D license or Learner Permit. For details on these waiting periods, see Table 4.2 and 4.3.
- When you return to take a test over, you must bring back all of the original documents you are required to provide.
- You will be required to pay the application fee each time you take a test and fail
 - \$2.00 for Class PD, D or For Hire tests
 - \$3.00 for Class PM or M tests
 - \$6.00 for Any CDL test including endorsements

Determining Which Tests Are Required:

Table: 4.1

Original License	Class D or Class H Full Tests: Vision, knowledge, road Class PD Vision and knowledge tests Exchanging PD to D Vision and road
Duplicate, Renewal	No Test
Adding For Hire Endorsement	Vision, knowledge
New residents, with out-of-state license	Vision only, if out-of-state license is valid and has not expired; otherwise, full tests.
New residents, from other countries (or no prior license)	Vision, knowledge and road test

Note: See Motorcycle Manual for Class M tests, and CDL Manual for Classes A, B, and C

Vision Screening Test

To determine if a driver can see well enough to drive, a screening test is required before any license or permit is issued. An applicant is required to have at least 20/40 vision in each eye individually and both eyes together. This may be with or without your glasses or contact lenses. If you cannot see this well, you must have an eye specialist of your choice fill out an eye statement for the department to evaluate.

Knowledge Test

You will be given an exam covering knowledge needed to drive safely. The test will consist of multiple choice questions based on information contained in this handbook. Roughly speaking, you can expect the test to cover the following areas:

- Traffic signs and signals—25%
- Safe driving principles—25%
- Rules of the road—25%
- Drugs and alcohol—25%

The knowledge tests are administered in either a written or computerized format dependent upon the station visited. As a rule stations that are equipped with the computerized testing machines routinely require the test be taken in that format on the first attempt.

Stations that have the computerized testing are also currently able to offer the test in 3 alternate language formats of Spanish, Korean or Japanese. Applicants for whom English is not their first language may also use a translation dictionary as long as there are no notes or other handwriting visible within the pages of the book. Electronic Dictionaries on “Palm Pilots” are NOT allowed to be used during testing. Interpreters are NOT allowed to assist with any of the driver license testing.

Oral tests are available by appointment at selected stations for applicants who have a learning disability or are illiterate. If the applicant requesting an oral test is under the age of eighteen (18) a written statement from a physician or educational specialist stating that the applicant has a medical condition or learning disability will be required before the test can be administered in the oral format. In the event the applicant requesting an oral test is deaf, the Department of Safety will furnish a certified sign language interpreter to assist with the administration of the exam.

Original Class PD or Class D License Testing:

In order to encourage the applicant to thoroughly study the Driver Handbook and cut down on repeat visits by applicants who are not yet prepared for the examination; **the following time restraints will be observed for all original applications for a Class PD or Class D license.** These guidelines are based on the number of questions answered correctly by the applicant on the initial test.

Table: 4.2

Number of questions answered correctly:	Allow retest after the following mandatory study time period:
24 to 30 Questions Correct	PASS no re-test needed
21 to 23 Questions Correct	Next (1) Day
18 to 20 Questions Correct	Seven (7) Days
15 to 17 Questions Correct	Fourteen (14) Days
14 and fewer Questions Correct	Thirty (30) days

NOTE: The guidelines established above will also be applied to wait times between additional re-testing opportunities if applicant does not pass the examination on the second or subsequent attempts. **THESE GUIDELINES APPLY ONLY TO ORIGINAL ISSUANCE OF A CLASS PD OR CLASS D LICENSE.**

Any form of cheating by an applicant on a required examination will result in an automatic failure and the applicant will not be allowed to re-attempt the test for a minimum of thirty (30) days. Forms of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Use of any form of written notes (including notes on paper, clothing, body, digital pages, etc.)
- Talking during the examination (includes cell phone use)
- Attempting to allow another person to take the examination
- All cell phones, pagers or text messaging devices must be turned off during both written and road test administration

Road Test

Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection

The motor vehicle you bring for the road test must meet all Tennessee motor vehicle registration (valid tags) and safety law requirements and have equipment in proper working order. In addition, applicants will be asked to demonstrate their ability to use each of the first eight items (indicated in bold with a '*').

- ***Seat Belts.** Any passenger motor vehicle manufactured or assembled in 1969 or later must be equipped with safety belts and must be in good usable condition for both the applicant and the examiner.
- ***Brakes.** (Emergency and regular). All automobiles must have two separate methods of applying brakes. They must have a regular foot brake and a parking brake.
- ***Headlights.** (High and low beam). Motor vehicles must be equipped with at least two headlights but no more than four white headlights.
- ***Tail and Brake Lights.** Passenger vehicles must be equipped with a rear license light, two red tail lights, and two red brake lights.
- ***Windshield Wipers.** Every vehicle equipped with a windshield should have two (2) windshield wipers for cleaning rain or any other moisture in order to permit clear vision for the driver, unless one (1) wiper cleans to within one (1) inch of the inside of the windshield.
- ***Windshield Defroster and Fan Control.** Applicants need to be able to demonstrate how to 'unfog' the windshield.
- ***Rear View Mirrors.** At least one rear view mirror with nothing interfering with the driver's view of the rear. For applicants with certain vision or hearing impairments, two outside rear view mirrors are also required.
- ***Horns.** A horn is required on all motor vehicles.

Also required:

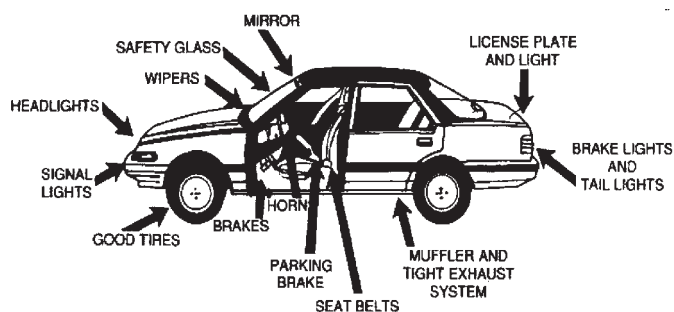
Windows and windshields. Clear vision for the driver is required to the front, rear and both sides. It is unlawful to drive a motor vehicle with a windshield that is so cracked, or covered with steam or frost that clear vision is prevented. No tinting material may be affixed to the windshield of any motor vehicle. Standards for the other windows depend on the vehicle as follows: **Passenger Car.** No material which transmits less than 35% of visible light may be attached to any window. **Multi-Purpose Vehicles:** All windows behind the front seat are exempt. Windows immediately to the left and right of the driver must comply the same as for passenger vehicles.

Mufflers. Every vehicle must be equipped with a muffler to prevent excessive or unusual noises and annoying smoke.

Doors. Both the driver door and the passenger door must open from the inside and the outside.

Bumpers. Passenger cars must have bumpers which are within a range of 14 to 22 inches from the ground; 4x4 recreational vehicles must have bumpers with a range of 14 to 31 inches.

Speedometer. Every vehicle must have a working speedometer in order to gauge vehicle speed.



The Driving Test

The examiner will give you directions and evaluate whether or not you can drive safely. You will not be asked to do anything illegal. The only people allowed in the vehicle are you and the examiner (or other authorized personnel). No animal may be in the vehicle. During the test, the examiner will be observing the following:

1. How you prepare to drive. Have you checked your mirrors, fastened your seat belt, turned on any necessary lights or wipers?
2. How you start your vehicle. Do you look for other cars? Do you signal and wait until it is safe before entering traffic?
3. How you control your vehicle. Do you accelerate smoothly? Do you use your gas pedal, brake, steering wheel, and other controls correctly? Handle curves properly?
4. How you handle intersections and make left and right turns. Are you in the proper lane? Do you look both left and right for approaching vehicles? Do you make sure

your path is clear before proceeding? Do you simply rely on the traffic signals? Do you signal and change lanes carefully?

5. How you obey the traffic signals and posted signs.
6. How you drive in traffic. Do you pay full attention to driving? Do you scan carefully for signs, signals, pedestrians and other vehicles? Do you yield and take the right-of-way correctly?
7. How you stop. Do you stop smoothly and at the right spot? Can you stop quickly and safely in an emergency?
8. How you back up. Do you look over your shoulder? Can you back in a straight line? Can you turn safely while backing? Can you back into/out of a parking space?
9. How you judge distance. Do you maintain a safe distance from other cars?
10. How you communicate to other drivers. Do you make sudden changes, or signal too late or too early? Do you slow down as early as it is safe to do so, or do you catch other drivers by surprise?
11. How you share the road with others. Are you courteous and watchful?
12. How you change your speed to suit the situation. Do you take into account the speed limit, other cars, light, weather and road conditions?

Causes for Immediate Failure

The applicant will be failed immediately for any of the following:

- Violation of any traffic law
- Lack of cooperation or refusal to follow directions
- Any dangerous action
- Contributing to an accident

When You Don't Pass

Upon completion of the driving test, the examiner will advise you of your errors, how to correct them, and what maneuvers you should practice to improve your driving skill.

You should review the related material and/or practice the driving skills before returning.

Applicants who do not successfully pass the skills test on the first attempt are not permitted to take the examination again on the same day. Applicants may be allowed to re-test

after mandatory practice times as determined by their total score (number of errors) under the guidelines in Table 3.2.

In order to encourage the applicant to thoroughly practice their driving skills and cut down on repeat visits by applicants who are not yet prepared for the examination; the following time restraints will be observed based on the number of errors committed by the applicant on the initial test.

Table: 4.3

Number of errors committed during the skills test:	Allow retest after the following mandatory practice time period:
1 to 6 errors / points	PASS no re-test needed
7 to 9 errors / points	Next (1) Day
10 to 12 errors / points	Seven (7) Days
13 to 15 errors / points	Fourteen (14) Days
16 or more errors / points -OR- Automatic Failure	Thirty (30) Days

NOTE: The guidelines established above will also be applied to wait times between additional re-testing opportunities if applicant does not pass the examination on the second or subsequent attempts.

When You Pass

In most cases, after you have successfully completed the required tests, your photo will be taken and you will receive your photo driver license at this time.

Tips To Help Your Testing Go More Smoothly

✓ Study and Practice Driving Ahead of Time

Both the knowledge test and the road test will go more smoothly if you spend time reviewing this manual, and spend time on the road with an experienced driver before you come to apply.

✓ Bring A Proper Vehicle

All safety equipment must work (horns, lights, seat belts, brakes, signals and windshield wipers). The vehicle registration must also be current. Bring a vehicle that you are familiar with driving.